

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 30-43 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 10-29 are canceled; Claims 30-43 are added; and no claims are amended herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Abstract was objected to; Claim 22 was objected to; Claims 10, 21, 22, 25, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; and Claims 10-11, 13-16, 20 and 24-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,429,211 to Aulanko in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,957,243 to Root.

With respect to the objection to the Abstract, Applicants respectfully submit that the Abstract begins on a separate page 20 of the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

With respect to the objection to Claim 22, Claim 22 is canceled by the present amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to Claim 22 is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, previously pending Claims 10-29 are canceled by the present amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

The applied art does not teach or suggest a traction sheave is disposed behind and near one of the pair of right and left cage-side guide rails and a rear-side side wall of the upper beam. Further, the applied art does not disclose that a side surface of one of the pair of

right and left cage-side sheaves is disposed in a vicinity of a rear side wall of the upper beam and other of the pair of right and left cage-side sheaves is disposed in a vicinity of a front side wall of the upper beam, and the one of the pair of right and left cage-side sheave is disposed near the traction sheave, when viewed vertically from above. The features discussed above are recited in Claim 30 and are best shown in Figure 3 of the present application.

In contrast, the traction sheave 26 of Root is disposed away from the cage-side guide rails as best shown in Fig. 1. Root neither discloses nor teaches to dispose the traction sheave 26 behind and near one of the pair of right and left cage-side guide rails and a rear side wall of the upper beam 20. Further, the cage-side sheaves 30, 30 of Root cannot be disposed in the vicinity of side-walls of the upper beam 20 since these sheaves are disposed below the upper beam 20. Please see Fig. 2a and Fig. 2b of Root.

Similarly, with respect to the teachings in Narumi, the cage-side sheaves 4, 5 cannot be disposed near the side-wall of the upper beam 3a since these sheaves are disposed well above the upper beam 3a. Please see Fig. 2 of Narumi.

The features recited in the claimed invention provide an advantage of reducing top clearance, that is, a vertical space between the top of the elevator system and the cage. Please see the disclosure on at least page 11, lines 21-29 of the present specification.

Further, the features of the claimed invention provide an advantage of reducing noises and vibrations caused by contact between the respective ropes composed of twisted lines and the rope grooves of the respective sheaves 17, 16L, 16R due to a small angle θ between the rotational axes of the traction sheave 17 and the cage-side sheaves 16L, 16R. Please see the disclosure at page 13 line 29 - page 14 line 29.

Further, as best shown in Fig. 1 of the present application, the driving apparatus 18 for driving the traction sheave 17 in rotation is disposed between the one of the pair of right and

left cage-side guide rails 11L and the rear inner wall of the elevator shaft. As such, a compact and space-effective machine room-less elevator is created.

Please see the generally the discussion of the features discussed above and the advantages provided thereof at least at pages 10 to 14 of the specification as originally filed.

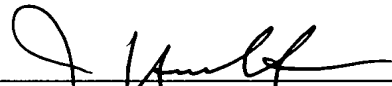
For at least the reasons set forth above, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Kevin M. McKinley
Registration No. 43,794

James D. Hamilton
Registration No. 28,421

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

GJM:KMM\la
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